



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -
Friday, February 6, 2009

Arizona Department of Public Safety traffic stop on Interstate 40 in Flagstaff results in the seizure of over \$115,000 in U.S. currency *Most of the money was packaged in birthday wrapping paper*

On Feb. 4, 2009, at about 12:37 p.m., an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Canine Officer stopped a grey 2008 Chevrolet Impala for a traffic violation on Interstate 40 westbound in Flagstaff. The officer observed indicators of criminal activity during the stop and deployed his canine which alerted to the vehicle. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a suitcase in the trunk which contained a package wrapped in birthday wrapping paper. Further investigation revealed the package, which was found to contain \$110,000, was also vacuum sealed.

An additional \$5,800 was located in a suitcase in the back seat of the vehicle.

The driver was identified as Samuel A. Barrett, 45, of West Palm Beach, Fla. He was arrested and charged with money laundering. He was booked into the Coconino County Jail. The money and Chevrolet Impala were seized.

“The excellent work of the DPS officers assigned to our Highway Patrol Division is evident when they intercept suspected drug money moving through the state. We hope this seizure sends a message to the drug cartels that the heat is on in Arizona,” said Roger Vanderpool director of the Department of Public Safety.

*Photos available upon request.

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